

February 10, 1999

6165 '99 MAR 29 19:30
Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Food Irradiation

Dear Commissioner Henney:

Food irradiation is not a solution to food contamination. Rather, irradiation is in itself a dangerous and filthy contaminant.

Irradiation creates radiolytic products, such as benzene, a known carcinogenic. Some of the created radiolytic products are completely new, unknown, and untested.

Irradiation destroys essential vitamins and nutrients, including C, K, E, and the B-complex.

No studies have been done to show that long-term use of irradiation is safe.

Proponents of irradiation often compare irradiation to pasteurization and microwave ovens. This comparison is totally inappropriate. Pasteurization is merely heat, and microwave devices are not radiation. Irradiation IS radiation; it uses the deadly waste product Cesium 137.

The nuclear industry began its promotion of irradiation in order get rid of the deadly waste from nuclear weapons manufacturing and to make money at the same time.

Irradiation plants and the transportation of nuclear by-products to fuel these plants create health and environmental hazards for workers and the surrounding communities.

The studies that the FDA has used to claim the safeness of irradiation are profoundly flawed. In addition, numerous studies ignored by the FDA show that irradiation poses serious dangers.

98N-1038

C284

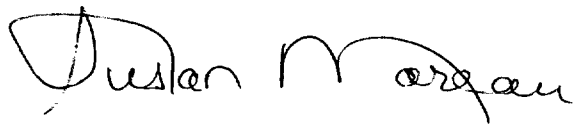
Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.
February 10, 1999
Page 2

Radiation does not kill all bacteria, fungi, and viruses. What it doesn't kill, it mutates. The FDA has not given this any consideration.

Contamination of meat in slaughter houses has recently become a problem because of constant safety violations by the slaughter houses themselves. Irradiation is not the answer. Returning the number of meat inspectors to the pre-Reagan level of 20,000 would be a step in the right direction. Slowing down the killing lines would be another.

I urge that you reverse your approval of food irradiation. In addition, I submit that the entire question of irradiation should be opened to public and congressional investigation, study, discussion, and debate. The treatment of our food supply should not be determined by the nuclear industry. The citizens of America and our elected representatives are the ones to properly determine such a serious matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Moreau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan Moreau
4911 Idlewilde Lane SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108



Moreau
4911 Idlewilde Lane SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108



Commissioner Jane E Henney, MD
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

